

liberal Democrats about the new majority in Congress. It has been a continuous chorus of whining and complaining from the liberal extremists, such as the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and others.

They cannot stand the fact that the American people have rejected 40 years of the liberal policies that have brought this Nation to the edge of bankruptcy, the highest crime rate in the world, an education system that has failed, illegitimacy rates skyrocketing, drug abuse out of control, a welfare program that is a disaster, and a tax burden where middle income families are being crushed.

Mr. Speaker, what have the liberal Democrats offered the American people to help solve these problems? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Nothing but whining and complaining because they are no longer the majority.

In fact, they have tried to block everything the American people have asked the new Republican majority to pass, like a balanced budget, welfare reform, a new crime bill, legislation to save Medicare, education reform and tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, the liberal whiners and complainers have fought for 2 things, regaining the majority and going back to 40 years of the big Government, tax and spend status quo.

AMERICANS DO NOT SUPPORT CUTS IN EDUCATION

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican symbol should no longer be the elephant, because the elephant never forgets. The House Republicans, especially the Republican leader and my friend from Texas, cannot seem to remember that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to cuts in education. Less than 1 month after we had a budget agreement that restored the cuts in education, they are back to say, let us pay for a gas tax by cutting education funding.

Most Americans support a cut in the Federal gas tax. Frankly, I support one. But not at the expense of education funding. While two-thirds of all Americans are concerned about the quality of education, my colleague, the gentleman from north Texas, DICK ARMEY, is proposing cutting funding for education programs in order to offset that revenue loss for a gas tax cut.

Eliminating our commitment to education is like declaring war on ourselves. We need only to look at our world class competitors in other countries to see what they are doing on education. They are not cutting funding. They are actually putting more money

into it and requiring more out of it. We need to hear more about preparing for a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during the American Revolution, the American people waged a war against one of the greatest empires in history. One of the main motivations for the revolution was the issue of taxation. In fact, one of their slogans was "No Taxation Without Representation." If you look at the historical record, though, you will find that the taxes the English Crown imposed on the colonists were light by today's standards.

Today is tax freedom day. It is the day that the American people stop working for the Government and start working for their families. Think about it, Mr. Speaker, 17 weeks of the year, almost a third of a year, is spent working for the Government. If our Founding Fathers knew this, they would roll over in their graves.

This may not be 1776, but it is 1996 and its time to cut taxes, reduce government, and restore the American dream for our children and grandchildren.

GAS TAX REPEAL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in this House we have seen extreme examples from the GOP on how to deal with issues facing our Nation. We have also seen sensible solutions which have won out in the end.

The country is now debating how to deal with the sudden hike in gas prices. We hear the same old extremist knee-jerk reactions from the Republicans. The majority has suggested cutting education to make up for revenue lost if part of the gas tax is repealed. Cut education? Do we really want to balance our books on the backs of America's families?

Mr. Speaker, a cut in the Federal gas tax of 4.3 cents a gallon would reduce revenues by an estimated \$30 to \$35 billion over 7 years. The new majority refuses to look at cutting corporate welfare. They refuse to look at what windfall profits are being realized by oil companies whose speculations send gas prices skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, through the shutdowns and budget gridlock, we Democrats have fought and won battles protecting education. But we can never rest. Here is a new assault on the American education system. Let us be sensible, not extremist, protecting our future.

TODAY IS TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day. May 7 is the day we stop working to pay our tax bill and the day we begin to work for ourselves and our families.

Incredibly, the average American must work from January 1 through today just to earn enough money to pay his or her share of State, local, and Federal taxes. Only tomorrow will Americans begin to work for themselves.

Many believe that on April 15 we are through with taxes for awhile. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, on average, Americans spend 2 hours and 47 minutes each day working just to pay their taxes.

Liberal politicians and the special interest groups mistakenly believe raising the minimum wage will help working Americans. Increasing the minimum wage will cost jobs and increase workers' tax burdens. If we really want families to earn more, keep more, and do more, the Government must stop taking so much from each paycheck.

Consider this. The working Americans that Bill Clinton says he is concerned about must earn more than \$3 to buy a gallon of milk that costs less than \$2. Let's cut taxes and make the Government spend less so that Americans may spend more of their hard-earned money.

REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of students across America, I would like to award a dunce's cap to my colleague from Texas. Mr. ARMEY, the acting Speaker of the House, suggested we could pay for repeal of the gas tax with cuts in education. Where does he think the money will come from?

We could cap college assistance—and take Pell grants away from more than 3 million college students. We could cap Head Start—take education, nutrition, and health care away from every one of the 760,000 preschoolers who participate—and we still wouldn't get enough. We could cap funds to elementary schools—and take reading and math help away from 5.5 million students who are struggling to catch up with their peers.

Mr. ARMEY, if you think the American people want to cut our children's education to save themselves 4.3 cents at the gas pump, you haven't done your homework.

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TURN THE CLINTON TAX TREND AROUND

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I guess the President just simply loves higher taxes. In 1993 he passed the highest tax increase in American history: an increase in the tax gas, an increase in Social Security taxes on seniors, an increase in taxes on small business. Now our Tax Freedom Day which we have heard so much about this morning keeps falling later and later every year under the Clinton watch.

In 1992, under George Bush, it was May 2, but next year, Clinton, May 3. Next year May 5; next year, May 6; and now it is May 7, the latest the tax freedom day has ever been.

We can turn the tide. We can and we should cut taxes. Let us cut them on average working families: taxes on gas, if my colleagues will, but taxes also on seniors, taxes on our small businesses, taxes on farmers, and taxes on capital gains. Let us shorten the Government's long reach into our pockets and cut taxes right across the board.

Let us turn this trend around. Maybe next year people will be able to work less for the Government and more for themselves and their families.

CUTTING FUNDING FOR EDUCATION—NOT THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I read that the majority leader made this statement on Sunday: Maybe we ought to take another look at the amount of money we are spending on education. And I thought, finally, good—we do need to take a look at the amount of money we are spending on education.

I saw today in the Washington Post that in Korea kids get out of school at 10 p.m., and they go to school 6 days a week. Is it any wonder that they are leaving us in the dust? They have gone from Third World to major competitor in a few short years because they are putting money into education.

But I learned, in fact, that the majority leader's proposal is to cut education funding to pay for a proposal to cut the gas tax.

This is not the direction we should be heading. Where I come from, families are indeed struggling to pay for very high gas bills; they are commuters. But the thing they know more than anything else is that, if we want to get ahead as a country, it is important to take the long view and make sure that our kids are the best educated in the world.

CUTTING DUPLICATION, NOT EDUCATION

(Mr. CHRYSLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, 128 days out of the year, 17 weeks out of 52,

are spent working to pay our taxes. In other words, for 128 days the average American works for government. Something is wrong with this picture.

Mr. Speaker, the American family is being pressured from all sides today. It does not help that government takes 128 days of his or her labor. And, thanks to Bill Clinton, Americans now work an extra 6 days to pay their taxes. That is another pay gone to finance the Government's spending by the Washington bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, we need less government, lower taxes, we need to let people keep more of what they earn and save, and we need to let people make their own decisions about how they spend their money, not government.

As to the remarks of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] about education, we had 760 educational programs in 39 different departments in this Federal Government. We said 170 of them were duplicative of other ones. That is not cutting education. This is cutting duplication.

WHEN WE REDUCE THE GAS TAX, WILL CONSUMERS BENEFIT?

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this:

When we reduce the gas tax, are consumers going to see any of the benefit? That will be determined by whether there is a free market, whether the oil companies are actually competing with one another, whether all those up and down the line will pass the price through to the consumer. Because if we reduce the tax by 4.3 cents and the consumer does not get any reduction at the pump, what good is it?

Now what we have seen in the past in the gas and oil market is that there is not real competition in certain ways. When the spot market wholesale price goes up, it immediately goes up at the pump, the price does. But when the spot market for crude oil goes down, it takes months and months and months for it to go back down.

This chart shows it all. Wholesale price falls 4.4 percent, price at the pump goes up 2 cents.

Now if that happens, the gas tax reduction will not bring any benefits to the American consumer, and we better make sure that it does.

ONCE AGAIN THE PRESIDENT REVERSES HIMSELF—THIS TIME ON ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1993 President Clinton passed the largest tax increase in history, and then later reversed himself in Texas when he commented that he raised taxes too much. He said he was

for a tax cut, but he vetoed tax cuts, just one right after the other: A child tax credit relief, capital gains relief, a marriage penalty relief, and many more.

Tomorrow we are going to bring a \$5,000 adoption tax credit up to be debated again for a second time, and once again the President has reversed himself. He says he likes the idea. We must continue to fight for tax cuts that help American families and children.

As my colleagues know, Americans want and even deserve a break from high taxes and not just when it is in the President's best political interest.

WHAT NEXT? AID FOR DEPENDENT COWBIRDS?

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, even on tax freedom day it never ends. Government bureaucrats maintain that California cowbirds lay their eggs in the nest of California gnat catchers, forcing the gnat catcher to raise the little cowbirds. Now, since the gnat catcher is on the endangered species list, the bureaucrats have decided to gas the cowbirds.

Now, if this is not enough to ruffle our tarfeathers here, my colleagues, they will spend \$67 million to kill California cowbirds.

What is next folks?

A Government grant for cowbirds to lobby Bruce Babbitt?

Aid for dependent cowbirds?

Tax credits to adopt the California cowbirds?

Is it any wonder we have a \$5 trillion debt?

I submit these are not normal Government bureaucrats. These are turkeys. Anybody who would spend \$67 million to help one endangered species, a gnat catcher, and make another species, a cowbird, an endangered species, needs a proctologist, not a psychiatrist.

PROTEIN CRYSTAL GROWTH ON THE SPACE STATION

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleagues about one area of science that will be performed aboard the space station.

Protein crystallography is a field of research that allows scientists to determine the structure of proteins that play critical roles in diseases.

To use this technique, researchers must grow large, high-quality crystals of the protein. On Earth, gravity often causes the crystals to grow imperfectly, preventing scientists from developing new disease-fighting drugs.

Protein crystals grown in space, as demonstrated on many space shuttle